

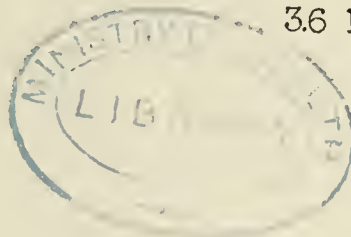
WARMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951.

To the Chairman of the Warminster  
Urban District Council.

36 Market Place,  
Warminster,  
Wilts.



Sir,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 1951 in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 42/51, dated 10th December 1951.

The Vital Statistics in the report continue to compare favourably with the figures for the country as a whole. This is only to be expected owing to the advantage Warminster holds in being situated in truly rural surroundings. Also the industries here are not of a nature which can be expected to shorten the natural span of life. However, the mortality figures have improved over the country as a whole and everywhere greater interest is being shown in morbidity, that is to say ill-health, this must also happen in Warminster. Any departure from good health is to be viewed with concern and illness must not be regarded as inevitable.

It follows that once the recognised sanitary services viz. a pure water supply, sewage and refuse disposal, control of milk and other foodstuffs, are working properly more attention must be paid to the individual environment both in the home and in the factory.

I am pleased that the Council have decided to abandon the Shearwater source of water supplies as soon as another supply can be made available. This old source of supply can only be regarded as dangerous according to all recognised sanitary standards, and it is to be hoped that an alternative supply will be provided with all possible speed.

New sewage works have been brought into operation during the year and when present troubles have been overcome should enable a safe effluent to be discharged to the River Wylye so preserving the amenities of this river.

Refuse disposal has not been satisfactory owing to the system of dumping rather than controlled tipping being continued. The tip which has been in use for many years has no further space available and steps should be taken to put the area to some useful purpose. The present tipping site, an old quarry, adjacent to new houses in Boreham Field is costly in measures to control rats and flies and has given rise to many complaints. The Surveyor informs me that he hopes to have all the refuse deposited here covered with soil in the near future and that a new site is being sought. When tipping begins on a new site the rules issued by the Ministry of Health in relation to controlled tipping should be followed.

Despite the passage of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949, followed by the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, little progress has been made in the control of dairymen or milk retailers. At the close of the year only one dairyman was registered with the Council - a thoroughly unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The habit of eating much food outside the home or food prepared outside the home underlines the necessity for strict control of food purveyors both in shops and catering establishments. Byelaws controlling the sale of food have been adopted by the Council during the year and it only remains to see that they are complied with.

It will be seen that the basic sanitary services mentioned earlier are not yet functioning as they should. One regrets that your Sanitary Inspectors hold so many joint appointments. In addition to working as Sanitary Inspectors they are also Surveyors, Water Engineers, Engineers to the Sewage Works and in the near future will be acting in a position similar to that of Clerk of Works to the Consulting Engineers for the building of the new Sewage Pumping Station. Other duties are owed to the Ministry of Transport relating to roads and to the Council as Housing Managers



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and control of employees engaged in Waterworks, Pleasure Gardens, Refuse Disposal and at a Swimming Pool. That the full duties of Sanitary Inspectors are not carried out must be regarded as a sin of omission rather than commission on their part. Sanitary inspection of a district is a very necessary duty, indeed a Statutory duty and a very difficult duty to fulfil. It is not being carried out in a thorough fashion and the preventive side of the work is lost sight of.

Leeway on the sanitary services must be made up and then interest can be shown in the control of morbidity, i.e. the control of ill-health.

It was possible during the year to give one lecture on clean food to a Women's Organisation in the town. I am always at the disposal of any body interested in Health Education.

Local Medical Practitioners have co-operated wholeheartedly in such measures as Immunization and Vaccination and valuable, indeed indispensable, assistance has been given by the Public Health Laboratory Service attached to the Salisbury Royal Infirmary. To these I tender my thanks at the same time expressing my appreciation of the courtesy of the Public Health and Water Committees in giving to me such a patient hearing.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

15th August, 1952.

JOSEPH REYNOLDS.

Medical Officer of Health.

Area of District	5651 acres	(5651 acres)
Estimated Population (30th June 1951)	8278	(8150)
Number of Inhabited Houses, including Huts, at 31st December 1951	1931	(1915)
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate	£223	(£221)
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1951	£54,709	(£54,004)

Chairman of the Council ... .. Mr. A.C.H. Titt.

Chairman of the Public Health & Housing Committee... Mr. G.H. Cowles.  
(Part-time)

Senior Sanitary Inspector... W. Parks, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.S.I.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector (Part-time)... F.J. Reilly, M.I.Mun.E.,

Council Offices:

36 Market Place,  
Warminster.

Telephone: Warminster 393.

# VITAL STATISTICS. (Figures for 1950 in brackets).

## (a) Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	69 (68)	70 (67)	139 (135)
Legitimate	65 (64)	67 (63)	132 (127)
Illegitimate	4 (4)	3 (4)	7 (8)

LIVE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population

Warminster Urban District... 16.8

England and Wales ... .. 15.5

Area Comparability Factor 1.14.

<u>Previous Years</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>
Warminster Urban District	16.6	21.0	21.3	24.8	22.0
England and Wales	15.8	16.7	17.9	20.5	19.1

Illegitimate Births = 5% of Live Births.

## (b) Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	1	1	2
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-



(c) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	3	1	4
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

(d) Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	4	1	5
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	1	-	1

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Warminster Urban District	36.0	(22.2)
England and Wales	29.6	(29.8)

(e) Deaths

Male 46: Female 51: Total 97.

## DEATH RATE per 1,000 population

Warminster Urban District	11.7
England and Wales	12.5

Area Comparability Factor 0.94

Previous Years

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>
Warminster Urban District	7.6	12.6	10.1	12.3
England and Wales	11.6	11.7	10.8	12.0

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	-	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria... ..	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	-	-	-
8. Measles ... ..	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.. ... ..	2	-	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	-	1	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast... ..	-	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus... ..	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ..	6	3	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia... ..	-	-	-
16. Diabetes... ..	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	10	6	16
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	3	7	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease... ..	2	-	2
20. Other heart disease .... ..	8	12	20
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	2	4	6
22. Influenza... ..	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia... ..	3	2	5
24. Bronchitis ... ..	2	1	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system... ..	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion... ..	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	1	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	4	5	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	-	1	1
34. All other accidents ... ..	1	-	1
35. Suicide ... ..	-	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	-	-	-
Total	46	51	97





INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery- Bacillary	Influenzal Pneumonia	Lobar Pneumonia
January	-	-	2	-	1	-
February	-	-	32	1	-	-
March	1	-	35	-	-	-
April	2	1	38	-	-	-
May	3	-	33	-	-	1
June	-	-	29	-	-	-
July	-	-	5	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	1	2	-	-	-	-
November	1	20	-	-	-	-
December	-	15	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	38	174	1	1	1

TOTAL = 223

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunization during 1951			Total number of children who were given a reinforcing injection.
0 - 1 years	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	
55	88	12	304

Total Immunized Child Population at 31st December 1951.								
Age at 31/12/51. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1951	1 1950	2 1949	3 1948	4 1947	5-9 1942-46	10-14 1937-41	Total under 15
Warminster Urban District	7	96	91	111	109	432	454	1300

The above figures show a marked increase in numbers over the figures for 1950, but there is still no room for complacency. To keep the disease at bay it is necessary that at least 75% of the child population should be immunized and to date this figure is not being attained. It may be that the absence of the disease from the district for such a long period has led to a false feeling of security, but it is not my wish that children should be attacked by the disease before mothers will take advantage of immunization.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during 1951 (including transfers in):

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	1	Males	-
Females	5	Females	1

Deaths from Tuberculosis in 1951:

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	-	Males	-
Females	1	Females	-





TUBERCULOSIS (cont).Cases removed from District during 1951:—

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	1	Males	—
Females	2	Females	—

Recovered and Written off during 1951. —

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	—	Males	—
Females	1	Females	—

Number of Tuberculosis Cases on the Register at 31/12/51. —

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	19	Males	11
Females	22	Females	12

CLINICS.

The following County Council Clinics serve the district :—

(a) Ante Natal :

At the Maternity Hospitals concerned.

Consultant Clinics are at Trowbridge for patients referred by their own doctor or midwife

(b) Infant Welfare :

On the first and third Fridays of each month at the Methodist Chapel, George Street, at 2.30 p.m.

(c) Orthopaedic :

At Salisbury, Trowbridge and Devizes by invitation.

(d) Ear, Nose and Throat.

By invitation.

(e) Tuberculosis.

Trowbridge, every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Salisbury, every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

(Children at 2 p.m.) By invitation.

(f) Venereal Diseases.MenWomen.R.U.H. (Bath): Friday, 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 5 p.m.Tuesday, 5 p.m.  
Friday, 2.30 p.m.

Salisbury Infirmary:

Tuesday, 11.30 a.m.  
Friday, 6 p.m.Wednesday, 6 p.m.  
Saturday, 11.30 a.m.

Trowbridge (The Halve):

Thursday, 5 p.m.

Tuesday 5 p.m.

(g) Diphtheria Immunization.2 p.m. at the Methodist Schoolroom, George Street,  
on the fourth Friday in each month.



WATER.

The following table shows the results of bacteriological analyses made during the year. No chemical analyses were made. It will be noted that only once has pollution from the Shearwater supply appeared in the town mains largely due to stricter control of chlorination. This may appear to be satisfactory but in reality it is far from satisfactory in so much as it could have caused an epidemic in the town. It must not be forgotten that over 8,000 people are dependent on the town supply and that no guarantee can be given that pathogenic organisms will not appear in the town water. Alkalis have been added to the Shearwater supply at the source to counteract acidity and for most of the year the reaction has been faintly alkaline, i.e. a pH of 7.1. The Shearwater supply should be abandoned with all speed.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.

<u>SHEARWATER.</u> <u>Untreated Water.</u>		Bact. Colonies count per 1 ml.	Estimated Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.	Estimated Faecal B. Coli per 100 ml.
16.4.51	60 Jersey Hill, Crockerton	3	3	3
9.4.51	69 Jersey Hill, Crockerton	48	10	3
21.5.51	-do-	1	3	Nil
15.10.51	Holy Well	17	180	3
<u>Treated Water.</u>				
15.1.51	"Bell & Crown"	0	0	0
29.1.51	11 Bradley Road	0	0	0
12.2.51	-do-	0	0	0
26.2.51	-do-	0	0	0
12.3.51	-do-	0	0	0
27.3.51	"Bell & Crown"	10	35	8
4.4.51	-do-	1	0	0
9.4.51	-do-	0	0	0
23.4.51	-do-	0	0	0
4.5.51	-do-	0	0	0
7.5.51	12 Bradley Road	1	0	0
18.6.51	"Bell & Crown"	0	0	0
16.7.51	-do-	0	0	0
13.8.51	-do-	1	0	0
27.8.51	-do-	14	160	Nil
30.8.51	-do-	6	0	0
3.9.51	-do-	2	0	0
10.9.51	-do-	1	0	0
24.9.51	-do-	272	0	0
8.10.51	-do-	96	0	0
15.10.51	-do-	0	0	0
22.10.51	-do-	4	0	0
29.10.51	-do-	2	0	0
5.11.51	-do-	1	0	0
12.11.51	-do-	0	0	0
19.11.51	-do-	1	0	0
26.11.51	-do-	1	0	0
3.12.51	-do-	49	0	0
17.12.51	-do-	0	0	0

ARN HILL.Treated Water.

27.8.51	9 Westbury Road	4	0	0
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THE ACID REACTION OF THE SHEARWATER SUPPLY IN TERMS OF HYDROGEN ION CONCENTRATION.

<u>Treated Water.</u>		
19.11.51	"Bell & Crown"	7.1 (Alkaline)
26.11.51	-do-	7.1 ( " )
3.12.51	-do-	6.9 (Acid)

With regard to quantity, despite repeated requests no information can be obtained from the Water Engineer.





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR  
THE YEAR 1951.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

An analysis of the Sanitary Inspections made during the year is attached :

Housing (including Council Houses & Flats, etc.)..	768
Overcrowding...	26
Factories and Workshops..	85
Cowsheds and Dairies	54
Ice Cream Manufacture	94
Fried Fish Shops	49
Bakehouses	27
Meat Shops and Stores	46
Offensive Trades	12
Schools...	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	32
Rat Infestation	106
Infectious Diseases	13
Water Supplies	162
Sewage Disposal	146
Refuse Collection and Disposal	78
Works in Progress...	316
Meat and other Foods	24
Miscellaneous...	120

Notices Served.

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Statutory</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Public Health Acts...	14	—	14
Housing Acts...	12	—	12
Other Statutes	24	—	24
	50	—	50
Outstanding, December 1950	6	—	6
	56	—	56
Complied with...	53	—	53
Outstanding, December, 1951	3	—	3

Foodstuffs Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

<u>Commodity.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>			
	Tons	Cwts.	st.	lbs.
Carcass Meat, Poultry and Game	—	7	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese and Butter	—	—	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	—	—	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon	—	—	—	—
Fruits, Cereal and Flour	—	3	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canned, bottled and packeted foods	—	3	2	—
	—	14	—	15 $\frac{1}{2}$

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Number of Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
49	85	Nil	Nil

Number of Cases in which Defects were found.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	3	3	—

The Number of Outworkers in August, all engaged in the Cleaning and Washing, Making, etc., of Wearing Apparel, was 129.



Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

Number Killed	<u>Pigs.</u> 7,500 (approx.)
Number Inspected	10
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>	
Whole Carcases condemned	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	20%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>	
Whole carcasses condemned	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0
Percentage number inspected affected with tuberculosis	80%

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains:

(a) Direct to the houses, 1891; (b) by means of standpipes, 40

Number of Population supplied from Public Water Mains :

(a) Direct to the houses, 8158, (b) by standpipes, 120.

